

are many, very many vexatious details that will present themselves, but when a thing is a right thing to do, there is always a way to do it; and this combination, speaking purely from the standpoint of economic saving and bettered work, is certainly a right thing to do. Furthermore, it will have to come eventually, for the trend of present day development is centralization of all educational work in the hands of the state. And this, too, is a sound economic principle, for the citizens of a state are its most valuable asset and their proper training, education and professional equipment is one of the most important tasks of any community. Of course, in the consolidation, many persons' feelings will be hurt; many will be left out; many titles will be taken away; there will be fewer "professors," etc., but that is true of every progressive change, and personal motives of ambition, greed or selfishness should not be permitted to stand in the way of what is to be for the general good of the community and the people.

CLOSING THE HOSPITAL.

Some years ago the JOURNAL commented on the fact that improved medical training and the betterment of medical work as a result of county medical society organizations were having a marked effect in the increase of the small hospital. All over the state, small hospitals were formed in communities that had previously been without any place where a very sick person could be properly treated or operated upon. The local men were studying up their surgery and taking postgraduate work and becoming competent to handle all the average surgical work that came along instead of sending the patient on a long, tiresome and often dangerous journey to a center where there was a hospital and a surgeon to operate. Last year we sent letters to a number of these hospitals that had formerly advertised in the Register and Directory, and several letters like the following were received in reply:

"We have decided to discontinue our hospital owing to the eight-hour law for nurses and therefore will not take the usual advertisement in the Register and Directory."

As a result of this law, which does not seem to do anyone the slightest good and which an overwhelming majority of the student nurses themselves did not want, a number of small hospitals have closed their doors, citizens of the local community are thus deprived of the hospital advantages which they had had, a large number of women are deprived of their occupation and of the chance to be educated so as to go out into the world and earn their living in a truly womanly calling; and what good has resulted to anyone? If someone who knows will only rise up and point out to us the slightest good that has resulted, we will be profoundly thankful. We seem to have gone mad on the subject of making laws for anybody and everybody, whether they want them or not!

GRATEFUL APPRECIATION.

Being an editor or serving on a Publication Committee is generally a pretty thankless task; unless one chooses to be utterly spineless, and whatever the editor of this Journal may be or whatever the members of the Publication Committee may be called, it is certainly *not* that! Here is a letter recently received from a physician in an Eastern city and we publish it with much pleasure, only suppressing the name, from motives of modesty:

"I have just finished reading the February number of the California State Journal of Medicine. I want to compliment you upon the amount of real useful material, editorial, society reports and other, which is published in your journal.

"I have yet to read a copy, and I have been doing so for some eight years, which does not contain something of real interest and value, either to the physician personally or to the association of which he is a member.

"Secretaries of societies throughout the states would profit by reading your journal. It is a real mind jogger."

There is more significance than merely a few kindly words of compliment in this letter and in similar ones that reach the JOURNAL office from time to time. The JOURNAL has always stood for definite, positive things; for real issues; for progress and betterment and upbuilding, and of course, in doing things positive, enemies are always made; that such will be the case is as sure as that the sun will rise and set. But in spite of the knowledge that such would inevitably be the case, every Publication Committee and the editor have stood together for what they thought to be right, even, in one instance, allowing a certain matter to go to an appeal to the Council of the State Society rather than to yield to pressure and publish certain matters which, in their judgment, should not be published. Constructive criticism and suggestions have always been most emphatically welcome; criticism based on glittering generalities has always been rejected because there are too many real important things to be done to waste time on idle speculation or impossible suggestion. If a few more people who feel as the writer of this letter feels, and who sometimes say so verbally, would take the trouble to write it and send it in, it would certainly be a pleasant and a well earned attention in the way of a compliment to the Publication Committee.

**¶ FORTY-FOURTH ANNUAL
MEETING OF THE MEDICAL
SOCIETY, STATE OF CALI-
FORNIA, SANTA BARBARA,
HOTEL POTTER, APRIL 14,
15, 16, 1914.**